



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAVAJO MAN RECEIVES 10 YEAR SENTENCE FOR SHOOTING AND KILLING HIS WIFE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on February 2, 2004, David Rock, 7/19/70, of Kayenta, Arizona, was sentenced to 121 months in prison for shooting and killing his wife, Michelle Rock, also a member of the Navajo Nation, by United States District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt, in Phoenix, Arizona.

On the morning of the shooting, October 22, 2002, David Rock borrowed two guns from his father for a supposed "hunting trip," one of which was the .22 that he used to shoot his wife. He took the children to school, leaving his wife, Michelle, alone in bedroom of their trailer. He then intentionally shot her. His initial story to investigators was that he was attempting to shoot himself in front of her and commit suicide, but that she had grabbed the gun and accidentally inflicted a fatal wound upon herself. He fled the scene knowing she was still alive and bleeding. Michelle lingered for a few days after the injury and was pronounced dead on October 25, 2002. When David Rock was apprehended by law enforcement near the Four Corners area in Utah, he still had the loaded .22 firearm. The government retained Lucien Haag, a forensic expert, to review the evidence in the case. He concluded that the defendant's claims about an

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accidental shooting were inconsistent with the ballistic and blood spatter evidence. In fact, Lucien Haag found evidence that demonstrated that Michelle Rock's head was probably on or near the pillow of her bed and she may have even been sleeping at the time of the shooting. In imposing the maximum sentence, Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt commented on the tragedy to the Rocks' four young surviving children.

David Rock had entered a guilty plea November 6, 2003 to the Second Degree Murder of his wife, Michelle Rock.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Navajo Department of Law Enforcement and Safety (NDLES) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The prosecution was handled by Soo C. Song, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1281-PCT-PGR
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